
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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LIME IN SEPTEMBER 1996

Lime producers, operating 108 plants, sold or used about 1.59 million metric tons in September, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This was 1% above the monthly average for the last 12 months. Lime sold by producers was about 1.44 million tons; this was 3% above the monthly average for the last 12 months. Captive lime used by 28 producers was about 146,000 tons, or 16% below the monthly average for the last 12 months.

Lime sold in September for construction uses, including soil stabilization, totaled about 152,000 tons. Sales of refractory dead-burned dolomite were about 14,000 tons. Sales of lime for environmental uses totaled about 436,000 tons. Sales to steel- or iron-related markets were about 384,000 tons, and sales for other chemical and industrial uses totaled about 458,000 tons.

Principal lime-producing States in September 1996, in descending order, were Ohio, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia. These States accounted for 41% of the total output. Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri were also significant producers, but specific figures were withheld to protect company proprietary data. August exports to five countries were 3,250 tons.

Industry news - A.P. Green Industries, Inc. announced that it has reached an agreement in principle to acquire the assets of Eastern Ridge Lime LP, an affiliate of Mississippi Lime Co. The plant is located in Ripplemead, VA, near A.P. Green's APG Lime Corp. Kimbalton, VA, lime plant. The limestone reserves and underground mining operations of the two plants are adjacent, which will facilitate better planning for the extraction of limestone for both plants. The acquisition of

Eastern Ridge Lime LP, which includes a distribution terminal at St. Matthews, SC, plus APG's joint-venture lime plant (Palmetto Lime LLC) being built at Charleston, SC, will strengthen its market coverage of the Southeastern United States.¹

Vulcan Materials of Birmingham, AL, is building a new dolomitic lime plant near Manteno in Kankakee County, IL. The plans call for installation of a 544-ton-per-day (600-short-ton-per-day) rotary kiln scheduled for startup in the spring of 1997. A second similar kiln may be added later. The new plant will strengthen Vulcan's position as a supplier of pebble lime to the steel industry. Vulcan currently operates the McCook lime plant in Cook County, IL.²

Chemical Lime Co. (CLC) has announced plans to construct processing plants and storage terminals at deepwater ports in Charleston, SC, and Tampa, FL. Construction of the Tampa facility is scheduled to begin in late 1996 and the Charleston facility in the first quarter of 1997. Lime will be sourced from a new lime plant to be built at an unnamed location in the Caribbean (scheduled to start up in 1998) and by rail from CLC's Eastern Division plants in Alabama and Missouri. Products supplied from the new facilities will include high-calcium and dolomitic quicklime, blended products, and slurried products.³

¹A.P. Green Industries, Inc. News release, Oct. 31, 1996.

²Vulcan Materials Co. Personal communication, Nov. 21, 1996.

³Chemical Lime Co. News release, Oct. 1, 1996.

TABLE 1
LIME SOLD BY PRODUCERS IN THE UNITED STATES, BY USE 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise noted) 2/

Use	September 1996	August 1996	9 Months 1996 3/	9 Months 1995 3/
Quicklime:				
Construction:				
Soil stabilization	58,100	39,600 r/	345,000	268,000
General construction	19,000	13,800 r/	115,000	65,700
Total	77,100	53,500 r/	460,000	334,000
Refractory dolomite	14,000	11,700 r/	125,000	133,000
Environmental	368,000	378,000 r/	3,060,000	2,640,000
Steel, iron related	383,000	377,000	3,510,000	3,510,000
Other Chemical and industrial	410,000	395,000 r/	3,640,000	3,820,000
Total quicklime	1,250,000	1,210,000 r/	10,800,000	10,400,000
Hydrate:				
Construction:				
Soil stabilization	23,500	32,400 r/	300,000	364,000
General construction	51,600	56,000 r/	420,000	415,000
Total	75,000	88,400 r/	720,000	779,000
Environmental	68,900	71,100 r/	621,000	568,000
Steel, iron related	991	999 r/	8,610	28,400
Other Chemical and industrial	47,800	50,400	392,000	428,000
Total hydrate	193,000	211,000	1,740,000	1,800,000
Total construction sales	152,000	142,000	1,180,000	1,110,000
Total refractory sales	14,000	11,700 r/	125,000	133,000
Total environmental sales	436,000	449,000 r/	3,690,000	3,210,000
Total steel, iron related sales	384,000	378,000 r/	3,510,000	3,540,000
Total chemical and industrial sales	458,000	445,000 r/	4,030,000	4,250,000
Total sales of lime	1,440,000	1,430,000	12,500,000	12,200,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ To convert metric tons to short tons, multiply metric tons by 1.10231.

3/ May include revisions to prior months' data.

TABLE 2
CAPTIVE LIME USED BY PRODUCERS IN THE UNITED STATES, BY TYPE 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise noted) 2/

Use	September 1996	August 1996	9 Months 1996 3/	9 Months 1995 3/
Quicklime 4/	132,000	124,000	1,300,000	1,420,000
Hydrate	4,250	2,920 r/	25,600	35,200
Refractory dolomite	10,200	10,500	95,800	110,000
Total	146,000	137,000	1,420,000	1,570,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ To convert metric tons to short tons, multiply metric tons by 1.10231.

3/ May include revisions to prior months' data.

4/ Excludes refractory dolomite.

TABLE 3
LIME IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION IN AUGUST 1/ 2/

(Metric tons) 3/

Country of origin	Quicklime	Hydrate	Hydraulic	Total	Year to date
Canada	13,000	3,380	4,300	20,700	136,000
Mexico	5,930	422	1,120	7,470	35,700
Other	5	--	--	5	85
Total	18,900	3,800	5,420	28,100	171,000

1/ Trade statistics are reported for the month previous to that of domestic statistics because of a Department of Commerce effort to improve accuracy by providing an additional 14 days handling.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ To convert metric tons to short tons, multiply metric tons by 1.10231.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4
LIME SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS IN THE UNITED STATES, BY STATE 1/

(Metric tons) 2/

State or territory	September 1996	August 1996	9 Months 1996 3/	9 Months 1995 3/
Alabama	153,000	148,000	1,320,000	1,290,000
Idaho, Oregon, and Washington	51,200	45,100	468,000	508,000
Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa	124,000	126,000	1,180,000	1,370,000
Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia	226,000	228,000	1,900,000	1,780,000
Michigan	48,100	44,600	438,000	476,000
Ohio	183,000	169,000	1,520,000	1,440,000
Pennsylvania	135,000	121,000 r/	1,140,000	1,190,000
Texas	109,000	113,000 r/	1,050,000	1,060,000
Virginia	65,700	65,800 r/	561,000	563,000
Wisconsin	45,900	47,400 r/	414,000	430,000
Other 4/	451,000	454,000 r/	3,960,000	3,690,000
Total	1,590,000	1,560,000 r/	14,000,000	13,800,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ To convert metric tons to short tons, multiply metric tons by 1.10231.

3/ May include revisions to prior months' data.

4/ Includes Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

TABLE 5
LIME IN THE UNITED STATES 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons) 3/

Period	Consumption 4/	Sold or used	Imports 5/	Exports 5/
1995:				
September	1,570	1,540	35	6
October	1,640	1,620	29	6
November	1,640	1,620	23	4
December	1,590	1,570	18	4
1996:				
January	1,590	1,570	28	3
February	1,490	1,470	21	4
March	1,540	1,530	18	9
April	1,560	1,550	15	3
May	1,580	1,570	17	5
June	1,610	1,590	19	4
July	1,610	1,590	24	4
August	1,590	1,560 r/	28	3
September	NA	1,590	NA	NA

r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Inventories may be estimated as 60% of monthly consumption.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

3/ To convert metric tons to short tons, multiply metric tons by 1.10231.

4/ Consumption includes sold or used plus imports minus exports, and includes Puerto Rico.

5/ Source: Bureau of the Census.